

# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIV, Issue No. 070

WEDNESDAY MARCH 10, 2004

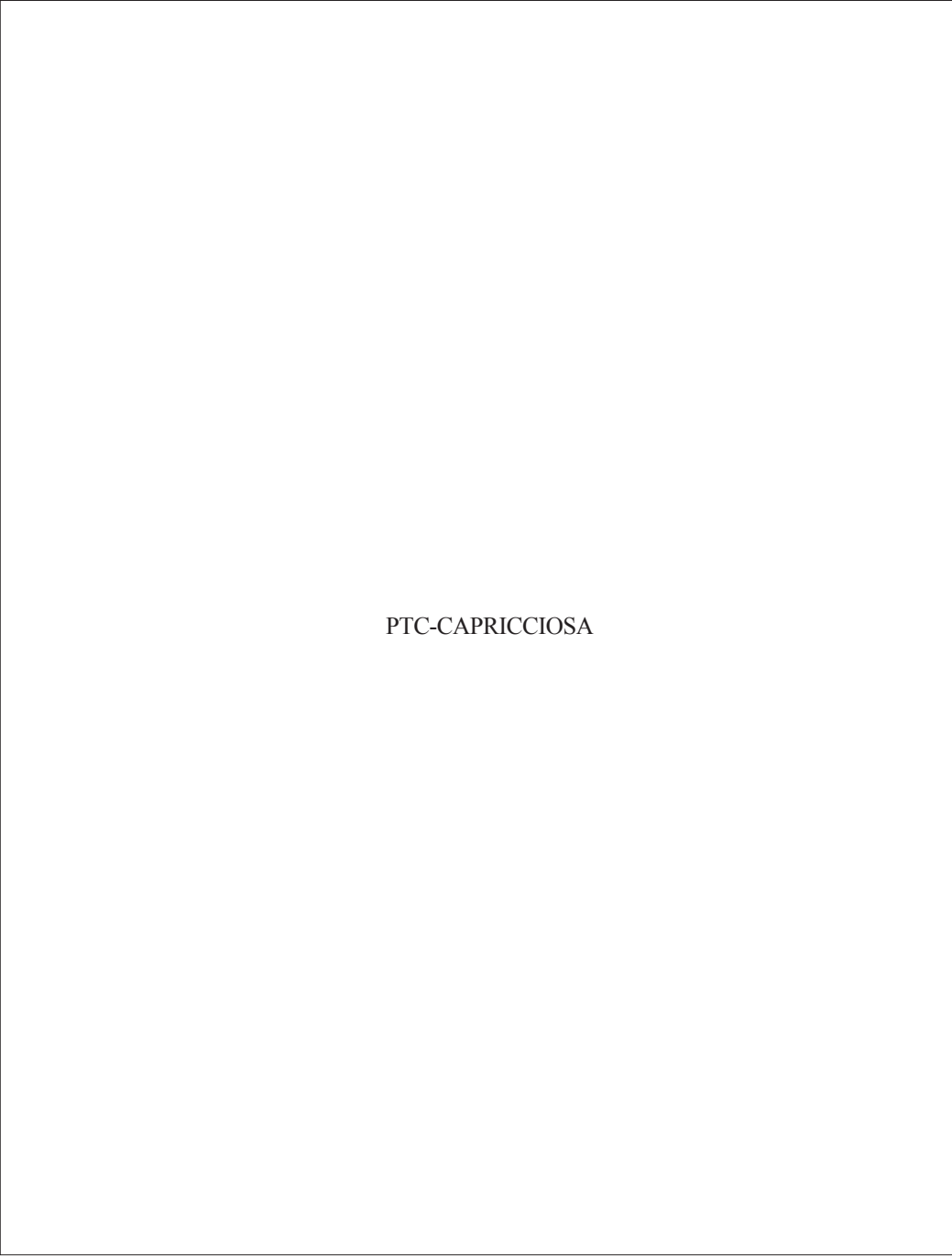
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I N S I D E

See NORITA on Page 8

See HOUSE on Page 8

# Local

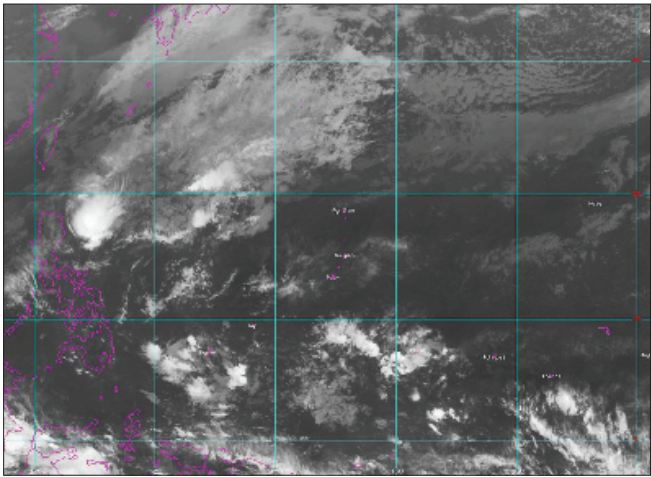


CARS UNLIMITED

CENTURY TRAVEL


COMMUNITY *Briefs*

WEATHER FORECAST




PICTURE TIME: 1:00 AM., MARCH 9, 2004  
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.


Fresh to strong trade winds across much of Micronesia converging into lighter winds near the Equator are producing scattered showers between the Equator and 8n from 130e to 153 and between the Equator and 6n from 160e to 180. A cold front stretches from 25n161e to 20n146e and continues as a shear line to 19n130e. Low- and mid-level clouds...light rain and showers associated this feature extend up to 200 miles north of the boundary. Trade wind convergence south of the cold front/shear line is producing low clouds and showers between 12n and 18n from 132e to 150e. This area includes the Mariana Islands.




**SAIPAN AND TINIAN**  
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.  
**Winds:** East at 15-20 mph. Highs near 87. Lows near 76.




**GUAM AND ROTA**  
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.  
**Winds:** East at 15-20 mph. Highs near 87. Lows near 76.




**PALAU**  
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.  
**Winds:** Northeast at 15 kt.




**POHNPEI**  
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.  
**Winds:** Northeast at 15 kt.




**YAP AND ULITHI**  
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.  
**Winds:** Northeast at 15-20 kt.






















**KOSRAE**  
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.  
**Winds:** East at 10-15 kt.



**CHUUK**  
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.  
**Winds:** Northeast at 15-20 kt.



**MAJURO**  
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.  
**Winds:** East at 15-20 kt.

| CITY  | FORECAST      | HIGH      | LOW       |
|---|---------------|-----------|-----------|
|  Auckland        | Sunny         | 71F (22C) | 60F (16C) |
|  Beijing         | Sunny         | 65F (18C) | 48F (9C)  |
|  Hong Kong       | Sunny         | 74F (23C) | 61F (16C) |
|  Honolulu        | Partly Cloudy | 82F (28C) | 68F (20C) |
|  London, England | Sunny         | 45F (7C)  | 30F (-1C) |
|  Los Angeles     | Sunny         | 79F (26C) | 59F (15C) |
|  Manila          | Partly Cloudy | 88F (31C) | 73F (23C) |
|  Melbourne       | Sunny         | 75F (24C) | 59F (15C) |
|  Miami           | Partly Cloudy | 72F (22C) | 54F (12C) |
|  New York City   | Cloudy        | 40F (4C)  | 34F (1C)  |
|  Osaka           | Partly Cloudy | 37F (3C)  | 25F (-4C) |
|  Paris           | Partly Cloudy | 38F (3C)  | 25F (-4C) |
|  Pusan           | Partly Cloudy | 53F (12C) | 39F (4C)  |
|  Rome            | Cloudy        | 49F (9C)  | 30F (-1C) |
|  Salem, Oregon   | Partly Cloudy | 60F (16C) | 40F (4C)  |
|  San Francisco   | Sunny         | 68F (20C) | 52F (11C) |
|  Seoul           | Partly Cloudy | 47F (8C)  | 35F (2C)  |
|  Tokyo, Japan    | Partly Cloudy | 42F (6C)  | 36F (2C)  |
|  Washington, DC  | Cloudy        | 45F (7C)  | 34F (1C)  |

SAIPANCELL  
CMYK  
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# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
Volume XIV, Issue No. 131

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## EDITORIAL

### Hot air

**G**ov. Juan N. Babauta's avowals of breaking what he describes as the monopoly in the local telecommunications sector is quite astonishing in its hypocrisy and rank insincerity, considering the stretch that lies between his words and his actions. Any further and one would already need a passport just to get from one point to the other.

Consider the new wrinkle in the proposed purchase of Micronesian Telecommunications Co., the local operations of Verizon, by Pacific Telecom Inc. After failing to get his way with the Federal Communications Commission and the Commonwealth Telecommunications Commission, he and his minions have come up with another tack that is patently intended to achieve nothing more than to throw a spanner into the negotiations, apparently to drag this thing on for another grueling round. There is no other way to describe the new conditions he is asking for other than them being ludicrous, uncalled for, and totally anti-business.

First of all, breaking up any monopoly, i.e., bringing in competition into the playing field, consists of attracting new investors to a particular sector. In this case, how can one attract new players into the local telecommunications sector if it sees the way the CNMI government is kicking around a foreign investor who has committed to spend millions of dollars on the Commonwealth? The CNMI cannot hope to draw in investors if they see the tortuous and humiliating process that they may be subjected to if they ever mull the notion of plunking down hard cash on these islands. This business deal between Verizon and PTI is surely being seen as a litmus test by other potential investors, whether in the telecom or other types of businesses, and it is a sad indictment of the administration that it is spectacularly failing in this regard. The administration has to understand that this is not just about PTI, against whom the governor seems to harbor a personal animosity; this is also about Verizon, a telecom giant in the U.S. mainland. By putting Verizon through the rack and pinion, other telecom companies that may have nursed the thought of branching out to this neck of the woods would by now have changed their minds, thankful that they did not make the same mistake that Verizon did.

As for what he keeps insisting as a monopoly, the governor should get his macroeconomics in order. The last time we checked, there is no law that limits another telecom firm from setting up shop in these islands. Monopolies exist when the government actively supports a system that propagates and maintains such structures. There's none of that here. The only reason why Verizon is the only local exchange carrier in the CNMI is because it is the only company that was gutsy enough to believe that business could be made here in the first place. Hello???? Earth to Babauta. There is only one cable because no one wants to invest in another one. To operate a local exchange carrier requires intensive capital and not every Tom, Dick, or Stanley has the wherewithal to commit millions of dollars to a venture that is at best speculative in nature. The business also operates based on the economies of scale, which means its profitability and price structure depends in large part on the number of its customers. With the CNMI population not even reaching 100,000, it does not make sense for another local exchange carrier to come in and compete with Verizon because there would not be enough users between them to operate at a profit while keeping call rates down.

Any assertions, therefore, by Babauta about promising to break the telecommunications monopoly is nothing but hot gas seeking an orifice from which to escape from. By being such a bully over the sale, any notion that this administration has that it can still lure in new investors is just the aftereffects of having inhaled too much of its own gas.

## AL-QAIDA RECRUITMENT POSTER



## Europeans view immigration as a necessary evil

By GREGORY RODRIGUEZ  
Special to the Los Angeles Times

**I**n a word, Europe is imploding. With their aging populations and declining birthrates, the nations of the EU have been forced to look beyond their borders to build a labor force large enough to sustain long-term economic growth. In the 1990s, an average of 857,000 immigrants a year changed the face of the original 15 nations in the EU, and the migration will continue.

Italy, for example, has the dubious distinction of having both the oldest population and the lowest birthrate in the world. Without immigrants, its population will shrink from 57 million today to 41 million in 2050. In Germany, the EU's largest nation, the number of senior citizens is projected to increase by 50 percent over the next three decades. A 2000 study by the United Nations concluded that if Germany did not accept 500,000 immigrants a year, it would have to raise its retirement age to 77 in order to have enough workers to finance pensions for the elderly.

A recent poll commissioned by the European Commission revealed that although 56 percent of Europeans understood the need for more immigrant labor, 80 percent favored more stringent immigration laws. Part of the problem is that most Europeans, with the exception of the British and the French, cannot grasp the idea of assimilation, the process by which "they" become "us." There is no civic myth—like the U.S. "melting pot"—that would enable them to envision unity in diversity. Nor is there an acceptance that minority and majority cultures can converge and influence one another. Immigrants are often seen as threats to social stability and national identity.

Until four years ago, for example, German naturalization law was based on blood rather than soil. A Russian-speaking ethnic German from Kazakhstan could automatically acquire German citizenship, but a German-born child of long-established Turkish immigrants could not. Now that the law has changed, Germans have only begun to expand the idea of "Germanness." The media use such clumsy phrases as "Turkish co-citizens" and "Turks with German citizenship" to describe their new compatriots.

Germany isn't alone in struggling to add layers to its notion of an ethno-culturally defined nation state. Even in France, where an ideology of assimilation prevails, the level of cultural conformity expected of immigrants is high. The recent ban on Muslim head scarves in schools, for example, is based

on the notion that there is only one way to be French.

Not surprisingly, phenotypic differences between the foreign and native-born do little to further belief in immigrant assimilation. In 1996, after a black Dominican-born naturalized citizen won the Miss Italia pageant, Italy was plunged into a national debate over the nature of "Italianness." The following year, new guidelines were issued requiring that contestants be born from at least one "full-blooded Italian" parent.

Although the standing of all things American is at a 10-year low in Europe, there is some acknowledgment that, when it comes to immigrants, we may have a model worth studying. Last weekend, a group of 70 Italian intellectuals and opinionmakers gathered in Venice at a conference hosted by the U.S. Embassy in Rome to consider that possibility.

Intimately familiar with the successes of Italian Americans from Frank Sinatra to Sofia Coppola, many of the Italian attendees were indeed impressed by the assimilative capacity of the United States. Americans may still be fighting over the desirability of more immigration and over how to integrate newcomers, but history and national folklore have taught us lessons about multiethnicity that many Europeans know they don't yet understand.

"We are beginners in terms of (ethnic) integration," said one of the participants, Giulio Bosetti, managing editor of *Reset*, an Italian literary magazine that focuses on multiculturalism. "We have to compare our experience in dealing with (ethnic) differences with that of the United States."

More comfortable with the idea of cooperating nation states than with the prospect of competing ethnic groups, Italians attending the conference were understandably reluctant to accept the American model of immigrant integration for themselves. But after two days of hearing the successes and failures of the ongoing struggle in the United States to make *e pluribus unum* a reality, they appeared convinced of the need for a new approach to their immigrant future.

One aspect of the American experience did seem to take root: the idea that national culture can and should be viewed in terms of constant change, rather than as a finished product in need of preservation. As Laura Balbo, a prominent sociologist and former member of the Italian parliament, put it, the future demands that the citizens of the European Union admit that not just their political organization but their very identities are a "work in progress."

Rodriguez is a senior fellow at the New America Foundation.



## Research can panic, not help, public

By **ARTHUR CAPLAN**

Special to Newsday

Every few months I get a call from a very distraught parent. They want to know whether they should have their child immunized against measles, mumps and rubella, or MMR.

They have heard or read on the Web that there is a link between the MMR shot and autism, a terrible brain disorder that, in its most severe form, makes it next to impossible to communicate with your child.

I am not a pediatrician, or even a practicing physician, so I tell these parents to talk to their doctors. But, I must confess that I do tell them that I had my son vaccinated and would not hesitate to do so again.

The parents are right to be concerned about autism. The condition is on the rise in the United States. In the past 10 years the rate of kids diagnosed with autism has gone up about 15 percent every year—an almost unheard-of brain disease epidemic.

But parents panicked about autism are wrong to be concerned about the MMR vaccine as the cause of this terrible explosion. Whatever is causing the surge in autism, getting vaccinated against measles, mumps and rubella (German measles) is not it.

Why would anyone blame the vaccination for the autism epidemic? The answer is that in 1998 a study appeared in the British medical journal *The Lancet* that found that in 12 children with autism eight of them seemed to have shown signs of the disease after getting an MMR shot.

That report set off a scare that led to many parents in Britain and the United States deciding not to get their infants vaccinated.

This balking at the MMR vaccine was followed by a massive measles outbreak. Prime Minister Tony Blair urged parents to keep vaccinating their kids, but—citing family privacy—strangely refused to say if his own son had gotten the shot. He had to be shamed by the British tabloid media into admitting in 2001 that the child had been vaccinated.

What is certain is that the fear the 1998 research paper inspired led to outbreaks of mumps and whooping cough, as well as measles, in Britain and the United States that could have been prevented by vaccination.

This past March, 10 of the 13 authors of *The Lancet* report retracted what they wrote six years ago. The 10 said that the data in their original paper did not support the conclusion that the vaccine was to blame for autism.

Getting the retraction was not easy. It took a chorus of other studies arguing that the link was not there. These included a 2002 comprehensive British study and a thorough report shortly thereafter by the U.S. National Academy of Science's Institute of Medicine to get the authors to admit that their paper was fundamentally wrong.

So, given all the harm and worry that the original paper spawned, why did it make it into print in the first place? Well, partly because, even though it only involved a handful of kids, it seemed to find an association that might be important, and the media took this little study and turned it into many a headline.

And, perhaps in part, the authors were led to see more than the data implied because the main author was getting money from lawyers in Britain to see whether there was any basis for lawsuits by parents of kids with autism against vaccine manufacturers—money that he did not disclose to the editors of *The Lancet*.

The moral of this story is very clear. Everyone, the media, primary-care physicians, medical journal editors and parents need to be very careful about how early reports about medical risk are handled.

It should take more than one small study to get us to stop drinking coffee, holding a cell phone to our heads, eating French fries or avoid getting our kids effective vaccinations.

It is hard to prove what really works in medicine. It should not be easy to throw those things that really do work, like MMR vaccination, away.

*Caplan is chair of the Department of Medical Ethics and director of the Center for Bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania.*

## Unexamined commonplaces

This came from a conversation among a group of male medical staff members in one of our island Medical Clinics: Heaven on Saipan is to drive a German car, to eat Chinese food, to earn American salary and to marry a Filipina. Hell is to drive a Chinese car, eat German food, live with an American wife and earn Filipino salary.

There are endless variations of the same type of joke in every corner of the world. It is a healthy measure of any culture, social unit or ethnic group when it is able to say things like the above without taking offense. At least, not too much.

Stereotyping after all is a universal past time, indulged in particularly by the marginalized and edged out members of any social order, on the one hand, and those who carry imagined airs of superiority on the other.

My sister used to terminate our sibling (translate: close but not necessarily friendly) disagreements with the phrase: "For every rule, there is an exception." It was her famous exit phrase, the declaration she used to end all discussions. When I would point out that the rule she just articulated could not be true because it is itself a rule, and being so, the exception would mean that there are rules without exceptions, she would accuse me of acting out the lawyer role again. Must be why I never made it to law school!

What I failed to understand, of course, was that my sister was aiming for wiggle room rather than logical consistency. It is one of those commonplaces that have utilitarian value when used judiciously. Otherwise, it is nothing but a trite remark, a worn out phrase, a languorous hackneyed ride through downtown that has since been overtaken by the shinkansen, or the metro rail.

I remember running around as a foreign graduate student in antebellum America in the 60s, reading numerous billboards declaring that "Jesus is the Answer." Invariably, I would have the temerity to ask what the question was, to the great dismay of my hosts and religious colleagues. I was casting doubt on the wisdom of a taken-for-granted phrase whose meaning is not in the realm of intellectual inquiry but on the certitude and assurances of unexamined beliefs and commonplaces. Foolishly and insensitively not knowing the difference, there were nice hospitable homes from which I would not receive a return invitation after a pleasant weekend visit.

The power of unexamined commonplaces is in the arena of symbols—verbal, audio and graphic. To question them would be like defacing the Menorah, the Jewish candelabrum, on a Temple façade with the Nazi swastika. The latter is a symbol that is enjoying some measure of resurgence in the foothills of the Appalachia, Montana, Idaho, and the Dakotas, not to mention Chile,

## When war gets dirty

By **JOHN R. FERRIS**

Special to Newsday

The problem of prisoners is at its worst in dirty wars.

A case in point: Two soldiers, told by their commander to "abuse prisoners," hit a captured Muslim teenager with an iron bar, burn him with cigarettes and pose for pictures with him. One holds a gun to the boy's head. Later, one kicks the boy to death. Then, the pictures turn up on the nightly news.

Or, their government tells them to destroy terrorists who have just killed 20 people and threaten to do so again. So, soldiers rig electric wires to the genitals of Muslim suspects. Some are tough, others innocent; one is neither. He leads them to his chief, who blows himself up rather than surrender. Then, the media hears rumors of what has happened.

Which of these cases involved U.S. soldiers and Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison in 2004, after civilian officials allegedly demanded that interrogations become more productive?

Neither. The first case involved Canadian paratroops in Somalia in 1993, the second French paratroops in Algeria during 1957. But in all three cases, the combination of Western soldiers, Muslim prisoners of war and modern media equaled political disaster. They discredited the Canadian army and French claims to be defending civilization in Algeria—and they may cripple American policy in Iraq.

Prisoners of war always have been a problem. Simultaneously, you must control and protect enemies who have just been trying to kill you, and who still are resisting.

In antiquity, prisoners routinely were slaughtered or enslaved; North American Indians adopted prisoners or tortured them until dead.

Western publics expect prisoners to be treated by the Geneva Convention, but these rules represent 19th-century practice between Western armies, which have not always applied them. For much of the 1944 Normandy campaign, Canadian and German soldiers did not take each other prisoner. Moreover, these rules rarely have governed practice between Western and non-Western armies.

When fighting an unknown and dangerous enemy, often impossible to distinguish from civilians in an alien community, soldiers and

By **JAIME VERGARA**

*Vergara is a Social Studies 6th grade teacher at San Vicente Elementary School and writes a regular column for the Saipan Tribune.*



Brazil and Argentina. It is rumored that in some select and elite quarters of the uniformed services are to be found fanatical but covert adherents to the sectarian interests that this symbol represents. It has also become a symbol of rebellion among the young as evident in the notebooks and bathroom graffiti of elementary students.

On island, I've been assaulted lately by a saying from the late Leroy Eldridge Cleaver, Minister of Information for the 60's Black Panthers, and *Soul on Ice* author. He said: "If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem." The saying was popularized by the late U.S. Sen. Robert Kennedy in the 1968 presidential campaign. It was prominent in the recruitment ads of the U.S. Peace Corps as well. I have myself used the phrase on many occasions with my previous work in community-based ecologically sustainable economic development.

Ambrose Bennett, BOE Teachers' Rep, has been using the saying to express an equation in which he identifies himself with the first part, and I on the second. Happily, he identifies many others who do not see eye to eye with him under the "part of the problem" category.

Ten days ago, I revealed in this column a verbal email tiff that Ambrose and I had gotten into. I labeled the piece a "Prologue" intimating that a full three-Act play with a final Epilogue would be forthcoming. Events have overtaken the relevance of what I thought would have been entertaining narrative. Applying the standard of "community redeeming virtue," I've decided to confine our professional disagreements away from the daily family news fare. There are other tables around which a fruitful dialogue can occur.

Meanwhile, I will be working on keeping track of unexamined commonplaces—mine and those of others—to remind myself, at least, that the overuse of the same may not be the most helpful in furthering the cause of clear and productive communication.

After all, if you are not part of the...

officers lose their normal restraints. Dirty wars are the kind Western armies mostly fight nowadays. Yet their publics expect them to fight cleanly.

Here enters the media. The mistreatment of prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison apparently involved little more than humiliation, but these images are on the Internet, where they hit precisely the weakness of American policy in Iraq.

War is an instrument of policy, but American governments find it hard to turn battlefield successes into political victory. They are better prepared to win battles than wars. The issue of prisoners in Iraq illustrates the perils of fighting a war without having a policy.

When the war started, the U.S. military had perhaps 70 qualified Arabic translators, many of whose knowledge of Arabic or Arabs was sketchy. The United States had to turn to "contract linguists," many of whom were convenience store workers and taxi drivers. Because of these problems, and the inability of the small allied forces to process prisoners, the coalition simply let Iraqi soldiers melt back into the population, weapons in hand. This is a major cause for today's security problems.

Nor did this situation improve once occupation began. Soldiers with expertise about Arabs remained few, and were required for other duties. Prisoners were processed by contract interrogators and reserve military intelligence personnel. They were not prepared for their task; they did not know how to use effective and legal methods of interrogation on their Iraqi prisoners.

Instead, they turned to childish pranks, unlikely to gather useful intelligence, and took souvenir pictures of their actions. Then these images hit the fan.

Counterinsurgency is one of the most political forms of war, and one of the most terrible. It wears down the will of soldiers and their public. Counterinsurgents lose because they cannot stand the strain. They win because they understand how to combine politics and force. That is something Washington might think about doing.

*Ferris is a professor of history at the University of Calgary and a co-author of *A World History of Warfare*.*

## Saipan Tribune

CNNI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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START

From Page 1



# NMI students invited to visit Korea

Attention all CNMI students!

The Saipan Junior Chamber, with the support of the Marianas Flame Tree Junior Chamber and Junior Chamber International-Pacific, is inviting all high school and college students to participate in a trip to Seoul, South Korea.

The event, dubbed the 13th Annual Saipan Junior Chamber Student Visit to Korea Program, features a five-day stay—June 21–26—where students will visit the sights and sounds of Seoul, as well as the opportunity to create new friends and interact with another culture.

All students taking part in the trip must be a resident of the CNMI; must be enrolled in any public or private high school or college; must be above the age of 15; must have a grade point average of 3.0; and must not have participated in previous Korea visit program trips.

All participants are also required to pay a registration fee of \$300, which would include air and ground transportation, lodging, meals, and other expenses that may arise during the program. Applications may be faxed to 235-9214.

In hopes of raising funds for the trip, the SJC will be holding a golf fundraiser on May 22, 2004. Tickets are \$100, which includes green fee, dinner, and drinks.

According to a statement, the goal of the JCI is “to contribute to the advancement of the global community by providing the opportunity for young people

to develop the leadership skills, social responsibility, fellowship, and entrepreneurship necessary to create positive change.”

For more information concerning the Student Visit Ko-

rea Program or the golf fundraiser, contact SJC secretary

Yohan Kim at 235-9215/6. *(Shan Seman)*

## 13-year miners’ strike goes to Fiji high court

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand** (RNZI/PIR)—A lawsuit over Fiji’s longest running strike, which began in February 1991, has gone before the Lautoka High Court.

About 400 workers of the Emperor Gold Mining company went on strike 13 years ago for better pay and working conditions and improved mine safety.

The company sacked them, saying their action was illegal, and hired new workers.

The government de-registered the union the following year.

The report of a government-ordered commission of inquiry into the strike in 1995 was ignored by Emperor, which challenged its validity because the company claimed it was a few days late.

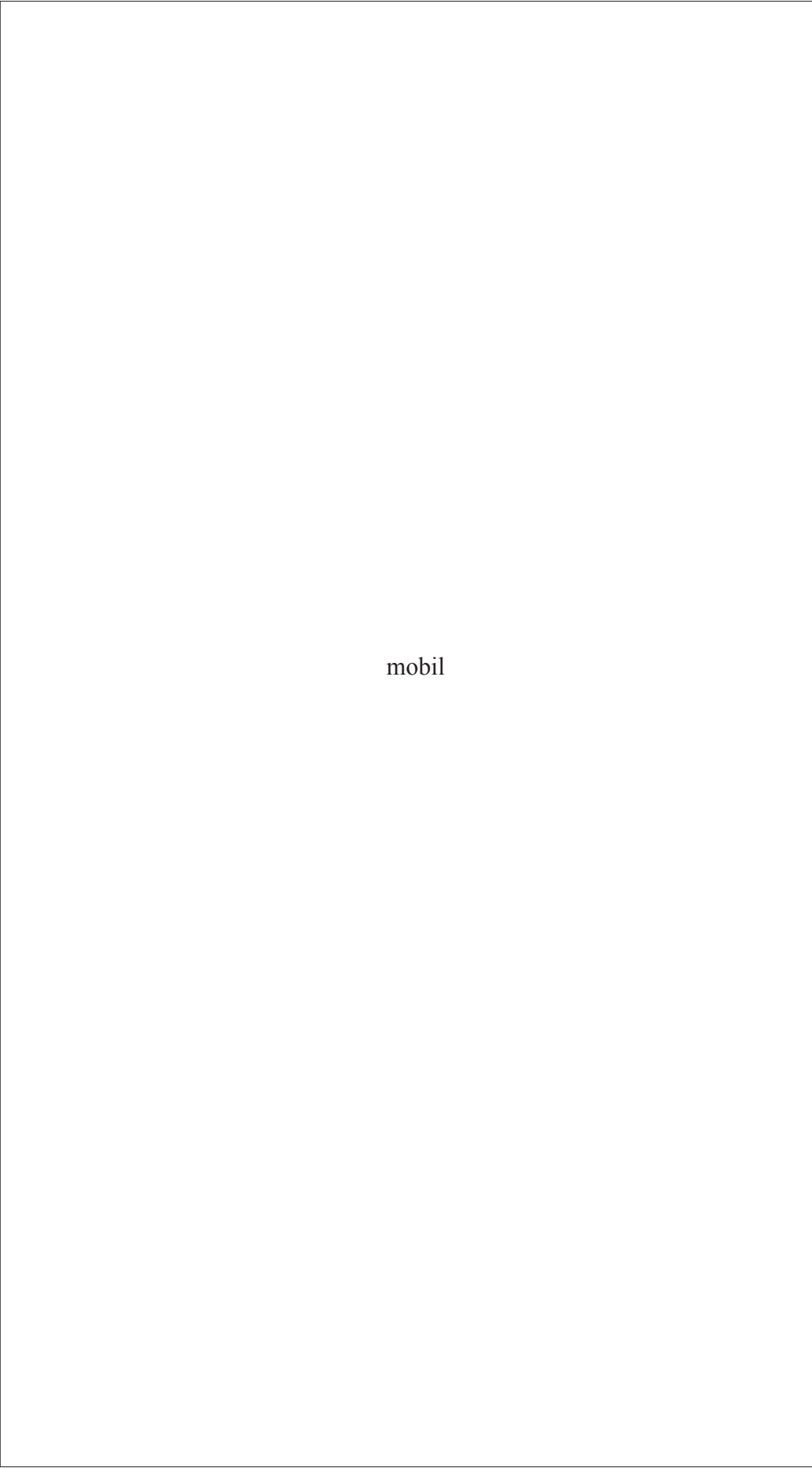
The hearing of that challenge began yesterday.

Meanwhile, the union is claiming US\$20 million in compensation for the misery and hardship faced by the strikers who have maintained a picket outside the mine for 13 years.

microl  
+red



# Business



mobil



pest control

# Economic gains push companies to hire

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Businesses haven’t given up their drive to do more with less—but they’re finally acknowledging they can only go so far without adding workers.

Even as the economy grew over the past two years, businesses automated and streamlined, cut jobs and demanded more of fewer workers, “offshored” and outsourced—anything to wring more productivity and profits out of their operations.

But new employment figures

released by the government Friday show the spiral of productivity gains that have long allowed companies to grow without adding jobs has its limits, economists say.

Employers added 288,000 jobs to their payrolls in April, broad-based hiring that was substantially ahead of forecasts by analysts.

It marks the second month in a row of very robust hiring, and the eighth consecutive month of payroll gains, albeit some of them quite small. That reversed

nearly 2 1/2 years of job losses, dating to early 2001.

“These (figures) show that the productivity boom has subsided and that we’re now reverting to a more normal trend,” said David Resler, chief economist with Nomura Securities in New York.

“At some point you run out of fresh ideas (for increasing productivity) or run out of the capacity to eke more output out of each guy you’ve got on the job. Sometimes it’s just simply exhaustion,” he said.

Companies aren’t going back to the way they did business in the past. They’re continuing to search for ways to do things more efficiently, and many of the jobs lost won’t be coming back, economists said.

But with the economy gaining steam, many employers appear to have concluded that the only way to seize the opportunities it offers is by adding people, particularly in service businesses that rely on human contact.

## Higher prices making Wall Street shudder

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Higher prices for everything from gas and groceries to industrial commodities and labor have translated into a gigantic “sell” signal for Wall Street, and left little doubt that inflation is on its way back.

With the Federal Reserve contemplating when, and how much, to raise interest rates, inflation is an increasingly worrisome factor for stock investors. But analysts say a modest rise in inflation is a necessary part of the economic recovery, and not necessarily something to fear.

“A couple percentage points of inflation is not that big a deal. It just shows the economy is growing,” said Mitch Zacks, director of research at Zacks Investment Research in Chicago. “Generally, as the economy grows, prices start to rise. ... It’s times of hyperinflation when things break down.”

It was only a few months ago that the Fed was concerned about deflation, which happens when prices fall too quickly. The core inflation rate now hovers between 1 percent and 2 percent, and is likely to rise further as the Fed tightens rates, perhaps as early as this summer. Economists say this kind of inflation is a healthy

side effect of growth, and far different from the damaging pricing pressures of the 1970s and ‘80s, when inflation was measured in double digits, and mortgage rates were as high as 15 percent.

“The market loves inflation of about 2 to 3 percent,” said Alfred E. Goldman, chief market strategist with A.G. Edwards & Sons Inc. in St. Louis. “It means the economy is growing, and corporate America can raise the price of its products, and earnings can rise.”

But Goldman is part of a contrarian market segment that has questioned whether the Fed is actually doing enough to stop more dramatic inflation before it starts. When inflation gets above 5 percent, it tends to be more unsettling to markets, and more difficult for policy makers to control.

The market, which seesawed after the Fed said it would take a “measured” approach to lifting rates from their current 46-year lows, might have responded more positively to a stronger statement, Goldman said. A promise of “vigilance” on the inflation front might have been more reassuring to investors—even though that further raises the prospects for higher rates, he said.

## PriceSmart April sales slide to 14.7 percent

**SAN DIEGO**—PriceSmart Inc. announced that for the month of April 2004, net sales decreased 14.7 percent to \$46.4 million from \$54.3 million a year earlier. For the eight months ended April 30, 2004, net sales decreased 11.0 percent to \$400.0 million from \$449.4 million last year. Excluding discontinued Philippine telephone card sales of \$5.5 million in April 2003, and \$20.1 million in the eight months of last year, net sales decreased 5.1 percent for the respective month and decreased 6.8 percent for the respective eight-month period.

The company had 25 warehouse clubs in operation at the end of April 2004. In the comparable period a year ago, the company had 28 warehouse clubs in operation. The opening of a new warehouse club in the Philippines is planned for early June 2004.

For the four weeks ended April 25, 2004, comparable warehouse sales for warehouse clubs open at least 12 full months

decreased 3.5 percent compared to the same four-week period last year. Excluding prior year Philippine telephone card sales, comparable warehouse sales increased 2.2 percent. For the thirty-four weeks ended April 25, 2004, comparable warehouse sales for clubs open at least 12 full months decreased 8.1 percent and decreased 5.8 percent excluding Philippine telephone card sales.

PriceSmart, headquartered in San Diego, owns and operates U.S.-style membership shopping warehouse clubs in Central America, the Caribbean, and Asia, selling high quality merchandise at low prices to PriceSmart members. PriceSmart now operates 25 warehouse clubs in 12 countries and one U.S. territory (four in Panama; three each in Costa Rica, and the Philippines; two each in Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Trinidad; and one each in Aruba, Barbados, Jamaica, Nicaragua and one on Saipan in the CNMI.

ROTARY CLUB GOLF



# Nation

## More bad news may be on the way for Bush

By **TERENCE HUNT**

AP WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—In one of the darkest weeks of his administration, President Bush saw America's reputation sullied, the U.S. effort in Iraq damaged and his own campaign for re-election clouded. And more bad news may be on the way.

While the world already has been horrified by pictures of American soldiers abusing Iraqi prisoners, the Pentagon warns there are many more photos and videos that have not been disclosed.

They show "acts that can only be described as blatantly sadistic, cruel and inhuman," embattled Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld told Congress.

From the White House to Capitol Hill, policy-makers are worried that the United States faces lasting damage abroad—particularly in the Middle East—from the pictures of naked Arab men being tortured and humiliated by American soldiers, the same forces sent to Iraq to liberate the country from Saddam Hussein's torture and repression.

Analysts describe the pictures as great recruiting tools

for al-Qaida and other extremist groups and said they undermine America's claims to a moral high ground. Rumsfeld said the impact was "radioactive."

Bush, in his weekly radio address Saturday, said, "They are a stain on our country's honor and reputation." He said the abuses were the work of a few and do not reflect the overall character of the 200,000 members of the U.S. military who have served in Iraq in the past year.

Six months from the November elections, Iraq weighs heavily on the president.

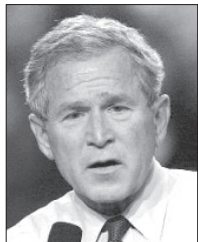
April was the deadliest month yet for American soldiers in Iraq and May is off to a bloody start.

On the diplomatic front, the administration does not know who will take power in Iraq from the United States in a June 30 handover.

Costs are soaring. The administration has sent Congress an unexpected \$25 billion request for Iraq and Afghanistan.

Day after day, the extraordinary apologies from the president and his top deputies dominated the news.

Pollsters and presidential experts are scratching their heads over how the prisoner scandal will affect Bush's re-election hopes.



Bush

"There's such a big question mark there, it's unlike anything we've seen before," said Andrew Kohut, director of the Pew Research Center.

"The public is very critical of (Bush's) management of Iraq. They don't think he has a clear plan for bringing it to a successful conclusion, but a thin majority of the public has been hanging in with that it was the right decision to go to war," Kohut said. "This could be the event which makes people say 'Oh, we did make a mistake.'"

Political scientist James Thurber of American University likened the Iraq images to the infamous Vietnam pictures of a naked young girl fleeing a napalm attack and a Viet Cong prisoner being executed on a Saigon street.

Referring to the new pictures, Thurber said, "That's what we're going to remember about Iraq. It's just not going to go away. That may have a lasting and negative effect on his campaign. It certainly does right now and I think you'll see it in the polls immediately."

Support for Bush's handling of foreign policy and terrorism, usually his strongest issue, was at 50 percent in an Associated Press-Ipsos poll released Friday. That compares with 55 percent a month ago.

### Age keeps WWII vets out of parachute stunt

**CLEVELAND (AP)**—A group of World War II veterans won't get to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Allied invasion of France next month the way they wanted—the Army decided they're too old to safely parachute into Normandy.

"I am depressed. I was really looking forward to it," said Howard Greenberg, 79. "My reason for wanting to do it was to honor two Jewish friends of mine who were killed in World War II."

"I resent being told I'm not physically fit. I only weigh 11 pounds more than I did the day I was discharged," he said.

Greenberg, a retired optometrist in suburban Bay Village, served with the 11th Airborne in the Pacific during the war and jumped into Normandy in 1994 on the 50th anniversary of D-Day.

That time, President Clinton gave the ultimate approval that allowed 38 veterans to jump near Ste.-Mere-Eglise, the D-Day objective of the 82nd Airborne Division.

Some of them landed on a herd of French cows.

Bob McCaffery, chairman of the Friends of D-Day 2004, the group raising money to pay for the jump, said he was notified of the Army's decision on Thursday.

### MISSION VIEJO, Calif.

**(AP)**—Basem el-Kurd is a suburban, white-collar Republican who voted for George Bush in the last presidential election. But el-Kurd is also a Muslim, a Palestinian by birth, and the photos of U.S. troops abusing Iraqi prisoners have sparked a bitter mix of outrage, shock and shame within him.

"I used to be proud when I traveled around the world and said 'I am an American,'" el-Kurd, 48, said after attending Friday prayers at his local

mosque. "I don't have that pride any more."

His anger was shared by many American Muslims, who said they have had difficulty defending their adopted country to relatives back home who saw photos of Iraqi prisoners stripped naked, abused and humiliated by U.S. soldiers.

"It was hard to see and disappointing too," said Husain al-Mosawi, of Dearborn, Mich. "We are in the position of having to defend to other Arabs the invasion of Iraq to take out Saddam."

Al-Mosawi, 30, said he thinks defense secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld has unfairly taken heat for the acts of a few soldiers. So far, seven soldiers face military charges.

But at el-Kurd's mosque, an angry prayer leader urged worshippers to write letters to Congress seeking Rumsfeld's resignation—a suggestion that drew strong support from many in attendance.

"We are all appalled and dismayed," said Mohannad Malas, a Laguna Beach businessman and native of Lebanon.



AP

### BACK HOME

Former Iraqi hostage Tommy Hamill, 44, left, and his wife Kellie Hamill, hold onto each other as prayers are said Saturday evening, May 8, 2004 at the Noxubee County Courthouse in Macon, Miss. The Hamill family joined other residents in praying for loved ones overseas in areas of hostile conflicts.

verizon  
cmyk

# 3 dead, 1 missing as boat sinks in RI

By RICHARD C. LEWIS  
AP WRITER

**TIVERTON, R.I.** (AP)—Christopher Duarte swam in darkness for 60 to 90 minutes in 50-degree water to reach shore after the small pleasure boat carrying his family capsized in or near Mount Hope Bay, the Coast Guard said. At least three of the six people aboard the boat died; the search for a fourth victim, the boy’s aunt, was called off late Saturday afternoon.

Shivering with cold, his bare feet cut and bleeding, the 14-year-old frantically banged on the Roses’ front door about 1 a.m. Saturday.

“He kept saying, ‘There’s

been an accident. I swam to shore. I’m sure the boat sank by now,’” Karen Rose said.

Duarte told Rose and her husband, Dave, that last time he saw his mother, she was clinging to a fender on the boat, without a life jacket.

Duarte’s mother, Edwina, 34, was found alive, but died on the way to the hospital, Coast Guard Petty Officer Andrew Shinn said. Duarte’s father, Allen, 35, was rescued and was in critical condition in a hospital.

“This is a family excursion that went awry, and it’s a tragedy,” Tiverton Police Chief Thomas Blakey said.

Officials said a change in the weather might have contributed

to the accident. Others said there may have been too many people on the 17-foot speedboat.

“The weather had changed. Winds had picked up,” Blakey said. Earlier he said, “I’m sure weather conditions were a factor. ... We’re looking at weather, equipment, human error. Everything.”

The boaters, all from Fall River, Mass., had gone out during the day Friday, and had traveled to a relative’s waterfront home in Swansea, Mass. The group left Swansea after dark and was heading to a dock in Fall River when the boat capsized, Blakey said.

Skies were clear and temperatures were in the upper 50s to

low 60s, but the wind had been picking up throughout the evening. By midnight, it was blowing from the north at 21 mph, with gusts up to 30 mph.

Authorities were investigating precisely where and when the boat capsized. Blakey said it capsized between Fall River and Tiverton, near the point where Mount Hope Bay meets the Sakonnet River, which extends to the south. Mount Hope Bay is a lobe of Narragansett Bay, with shoreline in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

The Coast Guard called off its active search for the boy’s aunt, 24-year-old Kelleigh Ouellette, late Saturday afternoon, Petty Officer Michael Caianiello said.

The search was suspended when the Coast Guard determined weather and water conditions made it unlikely that the woman had survived, Caianiello said.

The others killed were Christopher Duarte’s cousin, James Duarte, 23; and Ouellette’s boyfriend, Richard Doepler, 39.

The boy’s father was found about 20 minutes after Dave Rose called police. Allen Duarte was suffering from hypothermia and was reported in critical condition at a hospital Saturday.

“The quick response probably saved this guy,” Blakey said.

The Roses said they covered Christopher Duarte with blankets. Over and over, they said, he described how he kept

himself alive. He remembered a story his grandfather, a shellfisherman, told about his own boat capsizing.

“He said he kept thinking about what his grandfather told him, ‘Don’t give up. Keep surviving,’” Dave Rose said. “I would say it’s nothing short of a miracle he was able to do that.”

Some questioned why the family would be on the water in rough conditions, and said the boat may have been overcrowded.

“People don’t heed weather warnings,” said Don Dettlinger, an assistant harbor master for Tiverton. “It’s risky. Why those people were out there last night is beyond my belief. I wouldn’t be out if I were on my boat.”



## Boy collapses during soccer game, dies

**GERMANTOWN, Md.** (AP)—An 11-year-old boy collapsed and died minutes after entering a soccer game Saturday.

Montgomery County Police spokeswoman Lucille Baur said the boy had been on the field seven or eight minutes when he collapsed.

Several onlookers who knew CPR tried to revive the boy without success. Montgomery County firefighters arrived soon after and transported him to Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

There had been no collision on the field involving the boy before he collapsed and there were no obvious signs of injury, Baur said.

She said his family did not know of any pre-existing medical condition. An autopsy was to be performed.

The child’s name was not released pending notification of his extended family.

## Garbage workers strike in Reno area

**RENO, Nev.** (AP)—Garbage workers in the Reno area walked picket lines Saturday, a day after going on strike for the first time since 1967.

Teamsters Local 533 called the strike Friday after negotiations broke down with Waste Management of Nevada Inc. over pay, job security, health insurance and vacation benefits.

About 350 company employees had been working without a contract since April 18. Of that, about 280 are union members.

“Over and above the economic and job security issues, the straw that broke the camel’s back came when Waste Management inserted instructions into pay envelopes advising employees how to abandon their union,” said Local 533 secretary-treasurer Lou Martino.

The strike left full garbage cans in some areas and prompted company officials to call in a

strike team of employees from around the country to resume full service.

## Highway shooting suspect seeks Ohio funds

**COLUMBUS, Ohio** (AP)—Attorneys for the man charged in a series of highway shootings around central Ohio are asking for state money to hire mental health professionals and a private investigator.

Charles McCoy is indigent and needs psychiatrists to treat him and determine whether he is competent to stand trial, according to court documents filed by his attorneys Friday.

McCoy was diagnosed in 1996 with paranoid schizophrenia and he was declared disabled because of it a year later, the documents said.

The attorneys also said they need a private investigator to help review information from the months-long manhunt that ended with McCoy’s arrest in March.

McCoy, 28, has pleaded innocent to a 24-count indictment including the fatal November shooting of a 62-year-old woman.

## Two charged in high school shooting

**RANDALLSTOWN, Md.** (AP)—Two people were charged Saturday in a drive-by shooting that wounded four teenagers, one of them critically, as they left a charity basketball game at their high school.

Police also said they were looking for two unidentified suspects in Friday’s shooting in Randallstown High School’s parking lot.

Ronald Johnson, 20, was charged with four counts of attempted murder, first-degree assault and a weapons violation, police said. He was being held without bail Saturday.

Matthew T. McCullough, a 17-year-old student at the high school, was charged with the same counts but he remained at large, authorities said.

wia



Asia

Filipinos go to polls wary of ‘people power’

By OLIVER TEVES  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Filipinos reaped praise worldwide for using peaceful “people power” to oust dictator Ferdinand Marcos and restore democracy in 1986. But 15 years later, they were criticized for using the same tactics to force out President Joseph Estrada midway through the six-year term he won with the widest margin in Philippine history.

Filipinos head to the polls again Monday in a race seen as so close that millions of voters will likely be dissatisfied with the outcome. Some wonder whether the nation can accept the results without another “people power” revolt.

The hope is that Filipinos are now politically mature enough to accept the result and let the democratic institutions and legal system resolve any conflicts.

“For me, after the second one—that’s enough,” said taxi driver Daniel Original, who was only 7 when Marcos was toppled. “If we have another one, it won’t look good anymore.”

Even though Estrada’s ouster was legitimized by a Supreme

Court ruling, critics say his fate should have been determined by an impeachment trial that stalled after opposition prosecutors walked out in a protest over the pro-Estrada Senate majority blocking crucial evidence.

Conditions in the Philippines do not inspire confidence that it will remain free of upheavals.

Shortly after Estrada exited through the back door, there was a foiled bid by tens of thousands of his supporters to storm the presidential palace to oust his successor, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. A group of disgruntled military men staged a brief, failed mutiny last July.

Just days ahead of Monday’s polling, the national security adviser claimed that opposition figures are already plotting to stir up trouble if they lose.

If Estrada had stayed in office, the election would have chosen his successor. Instead, it pits Arroyo against Fernando Poe Jr., an action film star and close friend of Estrada, with three other candidates given scant chance of success.

Political commentator Benito Lim, a former Asian studies professor, traces the roots



Filipino school teachers prepare ballot boxes for Monday’s elections which will decide from the country’s president down to town councilors in Manila Sunday, May 9, 2004.

of mass protests to a failure by the nation’s elite to solve the gripping social ills of poverty, corruption, an underdeveloped economy, sharply unequal distribution of wealth and lack of opportunities.

After decades of control by an ineffective upper class, Filipino “people power” emerged as a “tribal gathering to oust a person they hate,” Lim said.

“It has never been a genuine revolution of a common desire to institute common programs addressing issues and problems of the republic,” Lim told Associated Press Television News.

Arroyo’s political adviser, Joey Rufino, said the first “people power” revolt—called the “EDSA revolution” or “EDSA 1” after the Manila highway where it took place—was

staged against dictatorship. The second, dubbed “EDSA 2,” took aim at “corruption and bad governance,” Rufino said.

The 1986 revolt revived a political system—modeled after that of former colonial power the United States—that prevailed before Marcos imposed martial law in 1972 and started his one-man rule. People took to the streets about two weeks af-

ter Marcos purportedly stole an election from opposition candidate Corazon Aquino, and she was swept to power.

“It restored some elite groups in society. But, on the whole, I give credit to the people, for without the people, it would not have happened,” Rufino said.

Filipinos remember Rufino, now executive director of the ruling Lakas-CMD party, as the man caught by television cameras tearfully pleading with soldiers—who had been sent by Marcos to quash the uprising—to instead join the revolt.

Rufino said he’s now “too old” for street protests and he hopes the “EDSA 2” movement will be the last.

“We can’t keep on going to the streets every time we hate something in government. That would be mob rule or anarchy,” he told The Associated Press. “Otherwise this will be a never-ending cycle ... worse than a banana republic.”

His fear: “One day, everybody will just wish there was a leader that is a strongman. And, then everybody will lose their rights. Everybody will lose their freedoms because they abused them.”

# China warns anew on Hong Kong autonomy

By MARGARET WONG  
AP WRITER

**HONG KONG (AP)**—Clamping down further on Hong Kong's autonomy, Beijing warned the territory's legislature Saturday it has no right to criticize the central government's decision to rule out full democracy in the near future.

The state-run Xinhua news agency quoted a top official with China's liaison office in Hong

Kong as saying local lawmakers would be acting unconstitutionally if they consider any motions that express "discontent with" or "condemn" China's ruling on democratic reform.

It was the first such warning since the territory reverted to Chinese sovereignty in 1997.

Another top Chinese official also branded the legislature's democracy advocates "bananas"—yellow-skinned

Chinese on the outside but with Western beliefs inside.

"These people, who bad-mouth China and Hong Kong, are sinners of the Chinese nation," Cheng Siwei, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, was quoted as saying by the Chinese newspaper Ming Pao. "They are just like bananas, yellow outside but white inside."

The statements came af-

ter Hong Kong's Legislative Council president, Rita Fan, rejected an attempt by opposition lawmakers to raise a nonbinding motion criticizing Beijing's decision.

Pro-democracy forces charge that Beijing unilaterally rewrote the territory's constitution, the Basic Law, when it ruled out direct elections of Hong Kong's next leader in 2007 and all lawmakers in 2008.

They accused the central gov-

ernment of rolling back freedom of speech, one of the Western-style civil liberties guaranteed to this former British colony.

"It's trying to curtail our right of free speech, step by step, from the legislature, the media and eventually the public at large," said Albert Ho, a pro-democracy lawmaker who tried but failed on Friday to launch the motion attacking Beijing's decision on election rules.

Another opposition lawmak-

er, Lee Cheuk-yan, said the Xinhua report "sounded an alarm" that Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy is being eroded rapidly.

Hong Kong's Basic Law holds out the possibility of full democracy in the next few years, but China's top legislative panel ruled on April 26 that the move must be delayed because it would create the risk of bringing social or economic instability to the territory.

## One killed in Pakistan sectarian clashes

**KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)**—Rival Sunni and Shiite Muslims exchanged gunfire Saturday, killing at least one passer-by, in sectarian clashes triggered by a suicide bombing at a mosque the day before in southern Pakistan.

Two other people were wounded in the unrest, which occurred after Shiites mourning worshippers killed in Friday's blast pelted a Sunni mosque with stones in Karachi's Sohrab Goth district, police officer Latif Siddiqui said.

Police fired tear gas shells to disperse the crowds.

Friday's bombing, which killed 14 people and wounded more than 200, was the latest in a series of sectarian and terrorist attacks in

Karachi, Pakistan's largest city.

Police have released a sketch of the suspected suicide bomber, dressed like a Shiite Muslim cleric, based on descriptions from survivors. It shows a man aged about 30 with a short black beard and mustache, wearing a black turban and robe.

Senior investigator Manzoor Mughal said police were trying to identify the maimed body of the bomber, thought to have used about seven pounds of high explosive in the attack.

"The statements given to us by some injured worshippers and other evidence make us believe that a man who was dressed like a Shiite cleric was in fact the suicide bomber," Mughal said. He gave no other details.

Earlier Saturday, police detained 50 Shiite youths, as unrest triggered by the attack continued with arson and stone-throwing around the city.

Shiite protesters set fire to two police posts in Sohrab Goth and smashed the windows of several shops in a market. They also have burned vehicles and the office of a state-run gas company.

No group claimed responsibility for the attack during Friday prayers at a Shiite mosque inside the Sindh Madrassah ul Islam school. It came two months after Sunni Muslim radicals attacked a Shiite religious procession in the southwestern city of Quetta, killing more than 40 people.



Pakistani Shiite youths run for shelter after police fired tear gas to disperse them in Karachi, Pakistan, Saturday, May 8, 2004, a day after a suicide bomber dressed like a Shiite Muslim cleric is believed to have carried out the attack that killed 14 people and wounded more than 200 at a mosque in this southern city.

### ASIAN Briefs

#### Earthquake shakes Pakistan, injures 15

**QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)**—An earthquake shook this southwestern Pakistan city early Sunday, leaving 15 people with minor injuries, officials said.

The 4.7 magnitude temblor struck at 1:12 a.m. and was centered in southwestern Baluchistan province where Quetta is situated, said Salim Akhtar, an official at the Pakistan's Seismological Center.

Dr. Jamal Shah at Quetta's Civil Hospital said at least 15 people were injured, including one man who broke his leg as he tried to rush from his home. Others were hit by glass from shattered windows.

#### Nepal's opposition to meet with king

**KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)**—Nepal's opposition parties said Saturday they were willing to hold talks with the king to solve the country's political crisis, but insisted discussions center on the monarch relinquishing some of his powers and restoring a democratic government.

The announcement came a day after the resignation of the country's pro-monarchy

prime minister, Surya Bahadur Thapa, after weeks of massive anti-government protests. The move was viewed as a possible first step for talks between King Gyanendra and the opposition parties.

"We will begin a dialogue with the king, but the agenda will be about the king giving up power and remaining a constitutional monarch and restoring democratic rights to the people," said Nepali Congress president Girija Prasad Koirala.

The king did not immediately respond to the talks offer.

#### Pakistan extends deadline for fugitives

**WANA, Pakistan (AP)**—Pakistan extended a deadline for suspected al-Qaida fugitives hiding in a lawless tribal region near Afghanistan to accept an amnesty offer or face possible military action, an official said Saturday.

The government originally gave foreign militants in the South Waziristan tribal region until Friday to turn themselves in, but none came forward.

After talks Saturday with local tribal leaders, Asmatullah Gandapur, the region's top administrator, said the deadline has been pushed back until Monday to give more time to resolve differences over how foreigners should

register with the government. He did not elaborate.

Last month, Pakistan offered to let all foreigners except al-Qaida and Taliban leaders settle in the tribal regions if they lay down arms, agree to respect Pakistani laws and register with the authorities.

But none of the hundreds of foreigners—among them Arabs, Afghans and Central Asians—have taken up the offer.

#### Marine killed in Afghanistan attack

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)**—One U.S. Marine was killed and another injured in an overnight attack on a patrol in southern Afghanistan, the military said Saturday, in the Marines' first loss to hostile fire in Afghanistan.

The soldiers were fired on by militants south of Tirin Kot, about 250 miles southwest of the capital, Kabul, in Uruzgan province, said military spokesman Lt. Col. Tucker Mansager.

Spokeswoman Capt. Cindy Beam said the soldiers were attacked during a patrol through Uruzgan and Kandahar provinces.

She gave no further details of the clash, but said the injured Marine underwent surgery at the U.S. military base near Kandahar city for "multiple gunshot wounds to the lower extremities."



World

British fight Shiites in southern Iraq

By SCHEHEREZADE FARAMARZI  
AP WRITER

**NAJAF, Iraq (AP)**—British soldiers beat back attacks by militiamen loyal to a radical Shiite cleric in southern cities Saturday, and U.S. forces stormed Muqtada al-Sadr’s stronghold in Baghdad.

Elsewhere, a U.S. soldier from the 2nd Infantry Division’s Stryker Brigade was killed and a soldier from the Army’s Task Force Olympia was wounded Saturday in a mortar attack on a coalition base in the northern city of Mosul, the U.S. command said in a statement.

Al-Sadr’s militia launched attacks in Basra and Amarah in an apparent attempt to open up new fronts after another cleric called for a jihad, or holy war, against British troops and promised rewards for the capture of coalition soldiers.

Sheik Abdul-Sattar al-Bahadli, al-Sadr’s main representative in Basra, 340 miles southeast of Baghdad, fired up worshippers during Friday prayers with denunciations of U.S. abuse of prisoners and alleged rapes of Iraqi women.

Coalition forces responded to the violence with moves against officials in al-Sadr’s movement, arresting his main representative in the southern city of Nasiriyah, Sheik Moayad al-Asadi.

U.S. troops backed by armored vehicles and helicopters also stormed al-Sadr’s office in Baghdad’s Shiite district of

Sadr City, a militia stronghold, and detained three people, witnesses said.

The new U.S. commander of Abu Ghraib—the prison near Baghdad at the center of the abuse scandal—blamed the mistreatment of detainees on the previous leadership and vowed “on my honor” that it would not happen again.

“The alleged abuses .... appear to be due to leaders and soldiers not following the authorized policy and lack of leadership and supervision,” Maj. Gen. Geoffrey Miller told journalists in Baghdad. “We will ensure that we follow our procedures. ... It is a matter of honor.”

A U.S. military convoy was attacked on the main highway Saturday near Abu Ghraib, destroying an SUV that burst into flames. After the attack, children cheered around the burning car, shouting “Long live al-Sadr,” until U.S. troops opened fire nearby.

Witnesses said four Westerners were in the car, but no casualties were confirmed.

American troops have been stepping up their crackdown on al-Sadr in the southern holy cities where his militiamen hold sway - Kufa, Karbala and Najaf. Intensifying skirmishes in the region have killed dozens in the past week, including 23 on Friday.

U.S. troops backed by tanks entered Karbala from two directions on Saturday, blocking roads leading to the sacred Imam Hussein Shrine at the city center.

**BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)**—The head of U.S. detention centers in Iraq said Saturday the military has no plans to close the Abu Ghraib prison and blamed the abuse of detainees there on poor leadership and disregard for the rules.

Maj. Gen. Geoffrey Miller said the United States does intend to cut the number of prisoners to help improve conditions but added that “we will continue to conduct interrogation missions at the Abu Ghraib facility.”

Miller was named head of prisons in April after Brig. Gen. Janis Karpinski, the commander of Abu Ghraib, was suspended amid allegations of prisoner abuse by U.S. soldiers at the prison.

Six prison guards are facing criminal charges for alleged abuse of Iraqi prisoners, and one has already been charged.

President Bush vowed Saturday that “we will learn all the facts and determine the full extent of these abuses. Those involved will be identified. They will answer for their actions.”

Bush said all prison operations in Iraq will be reviewed “to make certain that similar disgraceful incidents are never repeated.”

Miller said he visited all 14 prison facilities in Iraq to review procedures and that an Army team of 31 specialists was in the country retraining prison guards, a process that would last until June 30.



Gunmen loyal to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr take position in the center of Basra, southern Iraq, Saturday, May 8, 2004, attacking British patrols and government buildings, a day after an al-Sadr aide offered worshippers money for capturing or killing coalition soldiers.

AP

voc rehab

# Arabs work in secrecy to salvage summit

By SARAH EL DEEB  
AP WRITER

**CAIRO, Egypt** (AP)—Under extraordinary secrecy—even paper was banned to avoid leaks—Arab foreign ministers hoping to revive a summit of their leaders tried Saturday to find common ground on Israel, Iraq and U.S.-proposed reforms.

But Jordan’s foreign minister went public, holding a news conference and urging Arab nations to do more to advance the peace process with Israel, telling them not to wait for Israeli concessions before drafting some of their own.

The 22-member Arab League summit, scheduled to be held in Tunisia in March,

was postponed at the last minute because of disagreements among ministers on Israel and the political reforms.

In an effort to present a unified Arab voice, organizers imposed unusual secrecy on the ministers’ gathering.

Visual aids were projected onto a screen, not handed out on paper, to avoid copies making their way into public hands. Ministers held most of their meetings without aides to reduce the possibility of leaks and did not speak to reporters as they entered the meeting.

An Arab league spokesman said the secrecy was “out of respect for the Arab leaders” so their summit does not get upstaged by their own ministers.

But some details of the meeting emerged.

Delegates said on condition of anonymity that Saturday’s discussions did not cover a new date for the summit and U.S.-proposed reforms in the Arab world.

Delegates said they spent much time debating a letter from President Bush to Jordan’s King Abdullah II.

In the letter, Bush did not give guarantees for Israeli-Palestinian negotiations that Arabs had sought, but he appeared to back away from assurances he gave to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon last month.

Some delegates said the letter did not go far enough, according to people who attended the

meeting, but Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan Muasher indicated the consensus was that the letter did more good than harm.

He also urged Arab nations to do more to advance the peace process.

“Since the United States is saying in a written letter that the issues of final status are the responsibility of the two parties alone, let’s build on this stance, benefit from it, and use it to move the peace process,” he said.

Arabs have asked for guarantees from the United States on two issues: that an eventual Palestinian state would encompass the West Bank, and that Palestinian refugees who fled in 1948 from land that now lies in Israel be allowed to return.

## Number found at Spain blast site leads to arrest

**MADRID, Spain** (AP)—Police investigating the Madrid terror bombings have arrested a Moroccan whose telephone number was found in the ruins of an apartment where seven suspects blew themselves up, the Interior Ministry said Saturday.

The man, whose name was not released, was arrested Thursday night in Parla, a town just south of Madrid, a ministry official said.

The suspect’s telephone number was found in the wreckage of an apartment where seven suspects, including the suspected ringleader of the train attacks, blew themselves up on April 3 as police prepared to go in and arrest them, the official said.

The attacks on March 11 killed 191 people and wounded more than 2,000, and have been blamed on Islamic militants with possible links to al-Qaida.

Eighteen people have been charged so far—six with mass murder and the rest with collaborating with or belonging to a terrorist organization. Six of the 18 have been released from

jail but still face charges.

On Thursday, the FBI arrested an American lawyer, Brandon Mayfield, 37, in the United States as a material witness in the case.

Spanish officials say at least one of Mayfield’s fingerprints were found on a plastic bag containing detonators of the kind used in the attacks. The bag was found in a van left near the station from which three of the four trains bombed on March 11 departed. U.S. officials said a single print of Mayfield’s was found on the bag.

The newspaper El Pais reported Saturday that Spanish investigators have serious doubts as to whether the print is Mayfield’s. They have no record of him traveling to Spain recently, and experts found only eight points of similarity between the print and the one of Mayfield held in U.S. files because of his status as a former member of the Army. The FBI said it found 15 such points, El Pais said.

The Interior Ministry declined to comment on the report.

## Teen admits creating ‘Sasser’ worm

**HANOVER, Germany** (AP)—A German high-school student has confessed to creating the “Sasser” worm that generated chaos across the globe by infecting hundreds of thousands of computers, authorities said Saturday.

The teenager, whose name was not released, was arrested Friday in the northern village of Waffensen, where he lives with his family. In a search of the suspect’s home, German investigators confiscated his customized computer, which contained the worm’s source code.

“As a result of the student’s detailed testimony about the viruses he spread, he has been identified clearly as the author,” the state criminal office in Hanover said in a statement. Spokesman Detlef Ehrike said he is being investigated on suspicion of computer sabotage, which carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison.

After being questioned, the teenager was released pending charges.

The worm raced around the world over the past week, exploiting a flaw in Microsoft’s Windows operating system.

Microsoft said informants contacted it on Wednesday, offering information about the worm’s creator. The company’s investigators worked with German authorities, the FBI and Secret Service agents, tracing the virus by analyzing its source code, said Brad Smith, Microsoft’s top lawyer.

The company would not say how many people came forward or identify them. But in Germa-

ny, Microsoft data protection official Sascha Hanke said the informants had backed up their tip by providing part of the worm’s source code.

“We can say with great certainty that these people got the source code from the author,” he told reporters in Hanover. Hanke said he met in northern Germany on Thursday night with the informants, who told him who the author was.

Unlike many infections, Sasser does not require users to activate it by clicking on an e-mail attachment. Once inside, the worm scans the Internet for others to attack, causing some computers to continually crash and reboot.

The teenager told officials that his original intention was to create a virus called “Netsky A” that would combat the “Mydoom” and “Bagle” viruses, removing them from infected computers. In the course of that effort, he developed Sasser.

“The student did not give any thought to the resulting consequences or damage,” investigators’ statement said.

On Monday, the worm hit public hospitals in Hong Kong and one-third of Taiwan’s post office branches. Twenty British Airways flights were each delayed about 10 minutes Tuesday due to Sasser troubles at check-in desks. British coast guard stations were forced to use pen and paper for charts normally generated by computer.

Sasser is known as a network worm because it can automatically scan the Internet for computers with the security flaw and send a copy of itself there.

TRIBUNE GRAD AD



# Health & Fitness

## Orthotics a slam dunk for basketball players

By MARTIN MILLER  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Weekend basketball players, especially those prone to foot and ankle problems, might want to consider orthotics.

The advice comes from the author of a recent study conducted at Duke University Medical Center that measured the impact of common basketball maneuvers on the foot.

Orthotics, shoe inserts typically prescribed by a podiatrist, were found to reduce the maximum force on the foot.

The sole supports also helped bolster the muscles that keep ankles from rolling inward, a common injury in basketball.

“Custom arch supports are going to help everyone from the NBA star to the weekend warrior,” said Dr. Joseph Guettler, who presented the results of the Duke study at last month’s annual meeting of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgery.

In the study, researchers put electronic sensors inside the shoes of 11 college basketball players and recorded the impact on their feet. The researchers also placed electromyography (EMG) sensors on two foot muscles to measure the level of electrical activity.

The players performed three common basketball moves: landing on one foot following a layup, changing direction 180 degrees during a side-to-side shuffle, and pivoting 180 degrees during a forward sprint.

Measurements were taken and compared when players were performing with and without orthotics.

In particular, researchers were interested in the force upon the fifth metatarsal, a bone on the outside of the midfoot between the ankle and the small toe.

Stress fractures to this small bone are common among college and pro players, whose careers are occasionally ended because of the injury.

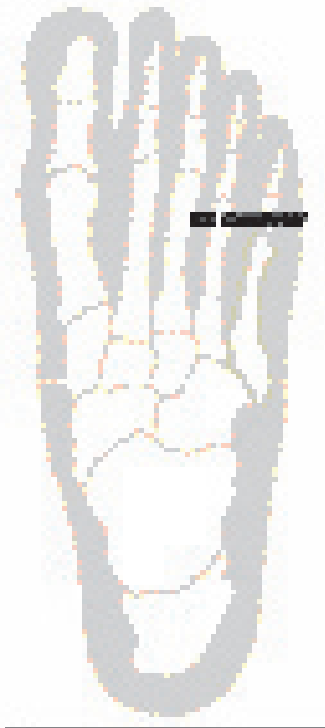
“The fractures are tiny,” said Guettler, who conducted the study while a sports medicine fellow at Duke University. “But over time they can become one large fracture. It’s like shin splints in the foot.”

The results, which identified the landing after a layup as the most potentially damaging play, found orthotics significantly cushioned the impact to the feet.

As a further guard against injury, Guettler recommended that athletes with foot and ankle troubles consult their physicians about ankle-strengthening exercises.

### Problem bone

Basketball players often develop stress fractures in their fifth metatarsal, the bone on the outside of the midfoot between the ankle and the small toe.



LOS ANGELES TIMES  
Basketball players often develop stress fractures in their fifth metatarsal, the bone on the outside of the midfoot between the ankle and the small toe.

## Ideas for making exercise fit

By JOHN BRILEY  
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

If running hurts, you’re doing it wrong. So says Danny Dreyer, whose new book, “ChiRunning: A Revolutionary Approach to Injury-Free Running” (Simon & Schuster, \$14), promises that runners of all ages, abilities and goals can develop a pain-free running style—and apply the same principles to other aspects of their lives.

Dreyer should have an attentive audience: Running causes more injuries than any other sport.

Dreyer eschews popular wisdom on the necessity of strong legs, noting that the cheetah hauls butt on rail-thin wheels. (The cat’s power is in its spine).

Drawing on tai chi, which holds that your power comes from your center, “ChiRunning” details good running form—posture, relaxation, balance, mental focus, torso-to-foot alignment and more. Dreyer tells us to lift our feet off the ground with our big muscles (hip flexors and abs) rather than push with our comparatively smaller leg muscles. Distance and speed come only after we’ve

smoothed our form.

He delivers advice like a wisecracking yogi, and the effect is a readable, practical book that is almost free of self-importance: “Loosen your glutes; don’t be a tight-ass.” “ChiRunning” also encompasses diet, stretching, race prep and personalizing a running program.

The road test? I took my enlightenment on a four-mile run and returned barely winded (unprecedented for me) and without the quad constriction and calf fatigue that I had come to accept as part of running.

## Children’s blood pressure rises together with excessive weight

By ROB STEIN  
THE WASHINGTON POST

The increase in the number of U.S. children who have become overweight or obese in the past decade has been accompanied by a disturbing increase in their blood pressure levels, researchers reported Tuesday.

An analysis of data from nationally representative surveys of more than 5,000 children found for the first time that average pediatric blood pressure rates nationwide have begun to inch up.

Although the increases may seem small—just 1.4 points in the top systolic reading and 3.3 in the bottom diastolic reading—they are enough to sharply increase a child’s risk of developing high blood pressure, a major risk factor for heart disease and strokes—the nation’s leading killers, experts said.

With children already increasingly being diagnosed with an adult form of diabetes, the new finding is another indication that the nation’s obesity

epidemic may be predisposing a generation to diseases that once afflicted primarily older adults, experts said.

“What we’re doing is shifting this burden of disease to a younger age,” said Barbara Alving, acting director of the National Health Lung and Blood Institute. “We see this new data as a wake-up call. It’s time to pay attention to this.”

Federal officials have begun revising the guidelines doctors use to diagnose and treat high blood pressure in children and adolescents to spur parents and physicians to screen children more aggressively and begin treating signs of trouble early.

“The obesity-related rise in blood pressure among American children is a serious health issue,” Alving said. “We need to take steps to reverse this trend.”

The guidelines, to be released this summer, will for the first time create a “prehypertension” category for children. They will advise that children with prehypertension should be put on a diet

and exercise regimen to lower their blood pressure, with drugs prescribed should that fail. The exact blood pressure levels that classify a child as having prehypertension or hypertension varies by age, height and sex.

“We want to give our children the best possible start in life,” said Alving. “That means ensuring they have a healthy blood pressure and weight. We need to teach them to be physically active and to follow a heart-healthy eating plan. Otherwise, we may be giving them an early start on heart disease.”

In the new study, researchers examined data collected from 5,582 children and adolescents ages 8 to 17 during the government’s ongoing National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey between 1988 and 2000.

Over that period, the average systolic blood pressure increased from 104.6 to 106 and the average diastolic pressure was 58.4 to 61.7, the researchers reported in Wednesday’s issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

pss-jva

Life & Style

Images of Iraqi prisoners used in art

By HAMZA HENDAWI  
AP WRITER

The crouching man is naked, his hands tied and his head covered with a hood. The alabaster sculpture on display at a Baghdad gallery bears a striking resemblance to some of the shocking photographs that emerged last week of Iraqi prisoners abused by their American guards at the Abu Ghraib prison.

But the 15-inch sculpture—with words “We are living American democracy” inscribed

on its base—was fashioned two months ago.

“We knew what went on at Abu Ghraib,” Abdul-Kareem Khalil, the artist, said Saturday. “The pictures did not surprise me.”

The nature of America’s occupation of Iraq—which many Iraqis increasingly perceive as intolerable—is finding its way to the local art scene.

Jubilation over last year’s collapse of Saddam Hussein’s regime has dissipated, replaced by terrorist attacks, an unprecedented rise in violent crime, inadequate pub-

lic services and a foreign occupation force that many Iraqis consider heavy-handed and scornful of Iraqi traditions.

Photos of smiling U.S. soldiers—male and female—mistreating Iraqi prisoners only add to the sense of powerlessness among people subjected to house raids, searches, checkpoints, barbed wire, detention of women.

At the Hewan, or Dialogue, art gallery where Khalil’s works are on display, owner Qasim al-Sabti recently invited artists to write or paint their impressions

of the occupation on a 6 1/2-foot by 10-foot rectangular piece of wood in the gallery’s garden.

About 40 artists and writers took up his offer. One painted an American eagle with feathers that look like rockets.

“You liberated us. Ok. Thank you! Go home,” someone wrote in English.

“America is the plague,” another one wrote.

“We are not strangers to what the U.S. Army does,” said Khalil, standing next to the statue of the naked man



AP  
An alabaster sculpture which bears a striking resemblance to shocking photographs from Abu Ghraib prison, made by Iraqi artist Abdul-Kareem Khalil in March 2004 is seen on display at a gallery in Baghdad, Iraq, Saturday, May 8, 2004.

and two other alabaster sculptures also inspired by the occupation. “Our dignity cannot endure this humiliation. Anyone detained by the Americans is ready to join the resistance upon his release.”

Al-Sharqiyah, one of several satellite TV channels that have sprung up in Iraq over the past year, has been broadcasting ads for a sitcom about life under U.S. occupation that will air soon.

Some of the scenes ridicule American soldiers, focusing on their ignorance of local culture or their zeal in searching for insurgents and weapons.

Khalil, 44, is angry about the U.S. occupation and what he said are accounts given to him over the months by Iraqis who had been released from Abu Ghraib.

Center fetes composers who were victims

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a dramatic example of the strength of the human spirit, some artists found the capacity to create their art even while held in a Nazi concentration camp.

Music by four composers who were victims of Nazi persecution will be featured on two evenings next week at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

On Tuesday the Hawthorne String Quartet will perform Viktor Ullmann’s String Quartet No. 3, Opus 43. He composed it at the Theresienstadt camp, where the Nazis had put him in charge of organizing inmates’ “leisure” time.

Theresienstadt was a concentration camp where conditions were far less harsh than most others so Nazis could use it as an example of Nazi camp conditions to show off to the Red Cross and others. The Nazis allowed inmates at Theresienstadt to organize an orchestra

“In no way whatsoever did we sit down and weep on the banks of the waters of Babylon,” Ullmann wrote in a diary, left behind when he was transferred to Auschwitz. “Our efforts to serve the arts respectfully was proportionate to our will to live, in spite of everything.”

Ullmann died in 1944 at Auschwitz, one of the most notorious Nazi death camps.

The musical program at the Kennedy Center opens with a song for soprano by Alexander Zemlinsky, with the ironic title “May Flowers Were Blooming Everywhere.” Zemlinsky left his music incomplete but the lyric tells of two young lovers: the man dies of summer heat and exhaustion, the girl, wandering under the Christmas lights of inhospitable farms, kills her newborn child and sinks into the snow.

Zemlinsky was a protege of Johannes Brahms and a brother-in-law of composer Arnold Schoenberg.

obit emilia sablan





# Vardalos says she writes for underdogs

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Nia Vardalos has a theory about the popular kids in high school. “I have this theory of life that there are four popular people in high school. And then there are the rest of us,” she told reporters recently, according to AP Radio.

Vardalos, writer and star of “My Big Fat Greek Wedding” and “Connie and Carla,” said she writes for the outcasts and the underdogs.

“I write movies for the rest of us—who never peaked in high school. And for the people that did peak in high school and then realized later that it’s all downhill, welcome to the movie as well.”

In “Connie and Carla,” Vardalos and Toni Collette star as lounge singers who go on the run after witnessing a murder and hide out as drag queens at a West Hollywood gay bar.

While doing research for the film, Vardalos said she learned some new terms—such as “drag bag.”

“That’s the bag that you toss over your shoulder that has all your makeup and your fishnet stockings in it,” she said. “Formerly known to us as (a) purse.”

Nia Vardalos, shown in Los Angeles in this April 13, 2004, file photo.

AP



## Actor’s videos going on ‘Peter Pan’ DVD

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Jason Isaacs, who played the villain Captain Hook in “Peter Pan” and the warlock father Lucius Malfoy in “Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets,” knows just how to stop bad behavior on the movie set.

He turns on his video camera.

Some of the British actor’s behind-the-scenes home video footage is featured on the new “Peter Pan” DVD. But he said it’s mostly happy stuff.

“I always video everything. What they put together on the

DVD is a few minutes of fun. But I have the ‘Hearts of Darkness’ version,” he said, referring to the documentary about the nightmarish production of “Apocalypse Now.”

“I’ve got everything and I always have enough to burn some bridges if I don’t want to work again,” Isaacs told The Associated Press recently.

He started by taking still photos on the sets of his early films.

“I guess I like hiding behind the lens. I would make a giant collage of the photos and make a poster out of it to give away as gifts.”

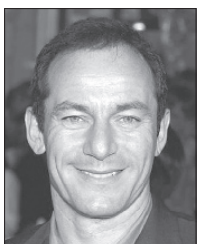
When he worked on “Armageddon” and “The Patriot,” he started using a video camera.

“Lots of people behave incredibly badly on the set and I just go ‘Ahemm’ and point at my camera.”

“On ‘Armageddon,’ I’ve got

(director) Michael Bay doing his Michael Bay shtick, climbing the walls and screaming. He says, ‘You’re not filming this are you?’ ‘Yes.’ ‘What are you going to do with it?’ ‘I don’t know—I guess sell it to network television,’” Isaacs said.

The only place he ran into problems was on the “Harry Potter” set. “That was the one place where you were not meant to have any cameras,” he said. “That didn’t stop me from shooting, but it did stop me from turning it over (for the DVD).”



Isaacs

## Fonda: Movie making is a lot like sex

**ATLANTA (AP)**—Jane Fonda, who recently came out of her 14-year retirement from acting, says shooting a movie is a lot like sex.

“How to do it just comes right back,” she said Thursday at a party for patrons of the Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention.

Fonda will appear in the film “Monster-in-Law” opposite Jennifer Lopez, playing the difficult mother of Lopez’s fiancé.

Fonda, 66, last appeared in the 1990 film “Stanley & Iris.” She retired from acting after marrying her now ex-husband, media mogul Ted Turner.

Other guests at Thursday’s event included singer Kenny Rogers and wife Carolyn and former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young.

## Barrymore tours voting rights landmark

**SELMA, Ala. (AP)**—Actress Drew Barrymore toured Selma, the birthplace of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as part of a documentary she’s filming on the importance of voting.

The actress visited the National Voting Rights Museum on Thursday before traveling 20 miles to the tiny community of Suttle, where she met with children involved in youth leadership.

Barrymore and her crew taped interviews with state Sen. Hank Sanders and his wife, activist

Faya Rose Toure, at the youth leadership center.

Barrymore, 29, declined interviews, saying the details of her project will be announced later.

Selma civil rights leaders said they were impressed with Barrymore’s knowledge of the voting rights movement as she toured a museum at the base of the historic Edmund Pettus Bridge, where marchers clashed with state troopers and sheriff’s officers in March 1965.



Barrymore

## ‘American Idol,’ hopeful returns to high school

**WILLIAMSVILLE, N.Y. (AP)**—John Stevens, the red-headed crooner who was ousted from “American Idol,” returned to high school Friday and said he’s still hoping to get a record deal.

“As of now, I’ve received no offers besides just singing

at weddings and other local events,” he said.

Stevens, 16, looked slightly embarrassed as Williamsville East High School principal Neal Miller declared Friday “John Stevens Day” in front of 1,000 students at an assembly.

“Sing us a song, Johnny!” a

few students shouted. He smiled but didn’t oblige.

Since being voted off the Fox television talent show about two weeks ago, the lanky teenager has crooned with Regis Philbin, bantered with David Letterman and come face-to-face with look-alike Conan O’Brien.

## Wife has nowhere to run from unfaithful husband

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

**DEAR ABBY:** I have been married to “Ron” for 11 years. Throughout our marriage he has been unfaithful. We have three children under age 12. I work a minimum-wage job and have no family, nowhere to go, and no one to turn to.

A few months ago, Ron brought home a sexually transmitted disease, which he gave to me. I feel trapped, alone and terribly depressed. I realize the children must be sensing my tension and pain. As Ron is not physically abusive, I cannot go to a shelter, and this has taken a toll on my health and well-being.

Should I stay until I’m financially able to leave? Or should I flee now and hope for the best?

LONELY AND SAD  
IN LOUISIANA



*Dear Abby*

**DEAR LONELY AND SAD:** If you haven’t already done so, contact your physician and be treated for the STD. Make a list of Ron’s assets, as well as his Social Security, driver’s license and bank account numbers. Next, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline: (800) 799-7233. Although there may not be room for you at a shelter, they can help you formulate an “escape plan.” Once that’s in place, consult an attorney who specializes in family law. You’ve suffered enough.

**DEAR ABBY:** My 19-year-old son was killed by a drunk driver. Garrett was hit at freeway speed as he got out of a disabled vehicle that had been blocked by a flatbed tow truck with its lights flashing.

The drunk driver went around the tow truck and never slowed down. He already had a prior DUI from seven years ago. From my research, the laws are too easy on these people. Offenders are getting five years, often reduced to one or two or community service, for taking an innocent life. The vehicle is their weapon. This should be second-degree murder, not manslaughter.

How can we get the laws changed? Whom do we contact to get results? It won’t bring my wonderful, loving son back, but these verdicts are nothing but a slap on the wrist to the drunk drivers, and a slap in the face to families who lose their children. My son was my best friend. He had his whole life ahead of him. This man took it away because he made the choice to drink and drive. Please, Abby, help me make a difference.

GRIEVING MOTHER,  
SANTA ROSA, CALIF.

**DEAR GRIEVING MOTHER:** I offer my deepest sympathy for the tragic loss of your son. One way to channel your grief would be to join a community of other grieving parents who are also determined to put more teeth into the punishment meted out to repeat offenders.

I recently became a member of the advisory board of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). It is a non-profit, grassroots organization that’s a leader in the fight against drunk driving and underage drinking. Because of MADD, more than 2,300 anti-drunk driving laws have been passed, public awareness has increased, and thousands of drunk-driving victims have received assistance. With their help, you can work within your own community to change the laws regarding repeat offenders in your state. The toll-free number is (800) 438-6233, and the Web site is [www.MADD.org](http://www.MADD.org). Call and you will receive the support you need.

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS, and getting along with peers and parents is in “What Every Teen Should Know.” To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)*

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# Pastimes

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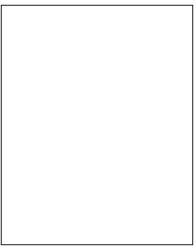








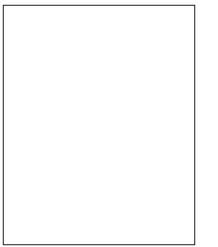




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# Saipan Tribune Sports

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**28** THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2003

SAIPAN TRIBUNE